

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Basic Officer Course
The Basic School
Marine Corps Combat Development Command
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B0328

INTRODUCTION TO PATROLLINGStudent Handout

"Take your time. Stay away from the easy going. Never go the same way twice."

-Gunnery Sergeant Charles C. Arndt

USMC: Guadalcanal, 1942

1. INTRODUCTION

a. Patrolling keeps the enemy off balance and adds an offensive punch to the defense. It is therefore an integral part of our warfighting philosophy. When we are not actively fighting the enemy, we are actively seeking the enemy's location. This keeps the enemy off balance while we make preparations for further attacks. Physically locating the enemy and keeping him off balance are normally accomplished by small units ranging from a two-man scouting party to a squad-size patrol. Marines are sent out as scouts or members of a patrol because the commander needs information about the enemy, the ground that is to be fought on, and the location of friendly troops. **The lives of the entire unit may depend upon the success or failure of a patrol and the accuracy and timeliness of their reporting.** The success of the patrol depends heavily on individual and unit training, the preparation by the commander, and the patrol's understanding of their mission and the requirements of their higher commander.

b. Patrolling is a means for units to ensure security and to gather information on areas not occupied or observed by friendly forces. **Every Marine should understand the basics of patrolling. It is a crucial skill to master regardless of MOS**, as it develops small unit leaders and teaches sound field skills. Non-infantry units, as we have recently seen in Southwest Asia and Somalia, are often tasked with conducting patrolling operations.

c. A significant portion of the program of instruction at The Basic School is devoted to patrolling instruction and field exercises. Your goal should be to become proficient in the techniques presented for each area of patrolling so that you can, regardless of MOS, train your Marines in the basics of this vital skill.

2. GENERAL

a. **Definition.** A patrol is a detachment sent out from a larger unit to perform an assigned mission of combat operations, reconnaissance, or a combination of both.

b. **Organization.** A patrol is always TASK ORGANIZED to accomplish its assigned mission.

c. **Classification of patrols**

(1) By terrain

Jungle/forested

Desert/arctic

Rural

Urban

(2) By means of movement

Foot

Motorized

Helicopterborne

Waterborne

(3) By mission

(a) **Reconnaissance patrols.** Reconnaissance patrols utilize movement and stealth to collect information and report on enemy and terrain. Additionally, they confirm or disprove the accuracy of information previously received. There are two types of reconnaissance patrols:

Point reconnaissance. This is a directed effort to obtain detailed information concerning *specific terrain or enemy activity at a specific location* (i.e., bridge, road junction or enemy activity critical to operations).

Area reconnaissance. A reconnaissance of an extended area or several points within an extended area.

(b) **Combat patrols.** Combat patrols are assigned missions which may require them to actively engage the enemy. Combat patrols also collect information on the enemy and terrain. There are five basic types of combat patrols:

Raid. A raid is a patrol which executes a limited objective, surprise attack on an enemy force or installation and then conducts a PLANNED withdrawal.

Ambush. An ambush patrol carries out a surprise attack from a concealed position upon a moving or temporarily halted enemy.

Contact patrol. A contact patrol establishes and maintains contact to the front, flanks, or rear of either a friendly or enemy force.

Economy of force. Economy of force patrols perform limited objective missions, such as seizing and holding key terrain, to allow the preponderance of a force to be employed elsewhere.

Security. Security patrols screen flanks, areas, and routes to prevent infiltration and/or surprise attacks. Security patrols are the most common type of combat patrol.

3. **PATROLLING PRINCIPLES.** Regardless of the category or means of conducting a patrol, the key patrolling principles are listed below:

- a. **Detailed planning**
- b. **Productive, realistic rehearsals**
- c. **Thorough reconnaissance**
- d. **Positive control**
- e. **All-around security**

4. **PATROL LEADER'S PREPARATION.** After receiving a mission the patrol leader begins preparation for the execution of his mission. During his planning, the patrol leader ensures that all required events are planned for and all patrol members know their duties. The patrol steps generally adhere to the troop leading procedures (BAMCIS) you learned during *B0324, Tac Planning I* and found in *Marine Troop Leader's Guide*. The twelve patrol steps are as follows:

a. **STUDY THE MISSION.** The patrol leader must thoroughly understand the situation, task to be accomplished, the mission, and the intent of his commander.

b. **PLAN THE USE OF AVAILABLE TIME.** Combat situations seldom allow the patrol leader as much time as is desired for planning and preparation. The patrol leader uses reverse planning to ensure that every essential task is accomplished.

c. **STUDY TERRAIN AND SITUATION**

(1) Terrain. Terrain and vegetation will directly affect the patrol's size, organization, equipment required, formations, speed and means of movement, and the scheme of maneuver (e.g., in mountainous terrain a patrol may utilize special equipment such as ropes in order to effectively traverse rough terrain).

(2) **Situation.** The patrol leader studies strengths, intentions, operational patterns, locations and capabilities of *both* friendly and enemy forces to determine how they will affect the scheme of maneuver (e.g., an enemy operational pattern such as the use of a particular watering site and movement down a specific trail network or avenue of approach will determine our selection of ambush sites).

d. **ORGANIZE THE PATROL** The patrol leader task organizes the patrol into the units and teams required to accomplish the mission.

(1) **General organization.** The patrol leader determines all the essential tasks that are required to accomplish the mission and then assigns units to carry out each essential task. When possible, the existing unit's standard task organization should be preserved (e.g., fireteams and squads).

(a) The **headquarters unit** is assigned tasks associated with controlling the patrol. (Normally used on combat and reconnaissance patrols.) The headquarters unit includes the patrol leader, the assistant patrol leader, the radio operator, and the flanks.

(b) The **security unit** provides security for the patrol during movement and at the objective area. (Normally used on combat and reconnaissance patrols.)

(c) The **assault unit** is tasked with actually engaging the enemy. It can be thought of as the maneuver unit of the patrol. (Normally used in combat patrols.)

(d) The **support unit** provides fire support for the patrol. The support unit's organization is generally based on the patrol's mission. It may be organized with medium machine guns, SMAWs, dragons, etc. (Normally used on combat patrols.)

(e) The **reconnaissance unit** is the equivalent of the combat patrol's assault unit. As the name suggests, it is responsible for actual reconnoitering during the mission. (Normally used on reconnaissance patrols.)

(f) A **reconnaissance/security unit** is tasked with reconnoitering while simultaneously providing independent security for the patrol. (Normally used on reconnaissance patrols.)

(g) An **assault and security unit** is similar to the reconnaissance/security unit with the exception that they provide a combat capability in addition to unit security. (Normally used for urban type patrols.)

(2) **Special organization.** If necessary, the patrol leader subdivides each unit into teams for enhanced control.

e. **SELECT PERSONNEL, WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT**

(1) **Personnel.** A patrol should be task organized with only those Marines required to accomplish the mission. *Maintain unit integrity whenever practical.* Do not take Marines whose physical condition (injuries, colds, etc.) will interfere with the mission.

(2) **Weapons.** As with personnel, a patrol should only take those weapons required to accomplish the mission. Ensure that Marines are proficient in the employment and functions of all weapons taken.

(3) **Equipment**

(a) **Routine equipment** is that equipment common to all members of the patrol (e.g., utility uniform, 782 gear, I.D. tags, weapons cleaning gear, etc.).

(b) **En route equipment** is all organic and nonorganic equipment which assists the patrol in reaching the objective area (e.g., fording or rappelling gear, map, lensatic compass, GPS, etc.).

(c) **In the objective area equipment** is special equipment which enables the unit to accomplish the mission once they have reached their objective area (e.g., field phones, claymore mines, communications wire, sensors, etc.).

(d) **Control** of the patrol en route and in the objective area is enhanced by using the following equipment (e.g., luminous tape, night vision devices, etc.).

(e) **Water and food.** Water and food are usually self-evident but require special consideration for longer patrols or for patrols conducted in a demanding environment (e.g., desert, jungle, arctic).

f. **ISSUE THE WARNING ORDER.** As with all combat operations, a warning order is issued well in advance of

patrol execution. Warning orders save time, give advance notice to subordinates of the upcoming mission and focus the patrol's planning efforts. The patrol warning order will be discussed in detail during *B0334, Combat Orders II*.

g. **COORDINATE**

(1) Patrol leaders should coordinate with the commanders of the units immediately affected by the patrol's actions. These actions include movement within friendly areas, departure/reentry of friendly lines, fire support from inorganic assets (e.g., the company's 60mm mortars), and any other coordination required to ensure the success of the patrol.

(2) Patrol leaders may be required to coordinate with battalion or support staff personnel. A designated patrol member such as the assistant patrol leader (APL) may be tasked to make specific coordination with the battalion's intelligence officer, logistics officer, operations officer, or fire support coordinator.

(3) At the company level and below, coordination will often be conducted by the platoon commander or by the company staff. When the company commander tasks patrols for a company patrolling plan, then all coordination normally is conducted by the company commander or his executive officer.

(4) An integral part of coordination with higher headquarters, whether a company or battalion is the **Patrol Overlay**.

(a) The patrol leader makes two copies of an overlay that graphically depicts the patrol's primary and alternate routes, checkpoints, and target lists (see Figure 1). Higher headquarters maintains one copy of the overlay in order to track the patrol's progress and assist in employing indirect fire support. The overlay is constructed on a clear piece of plastic and can be placed over a map. Two key elements of the overlay are neatness and accuracy.

(b) If a fire support plan is not provided by the higher (platoon or company) commander or if it is inadequate, the patrol leader should study the situation, mission and route and then submit the targets he desires as a **list of targets**. Once the targets are reviewed by the battalion fire support coordinator, those which are confirmed are returned as a **target list**. You will receive further information on **list of targets** and **target lists** in upcoming supporting arms classes.

(c) In addition to routes, targets, and checkpoints, the following is also depicted on the patrol overlay:

The target list. The target list includes target numbers, target location (grid), description and other remarks, as required.

Patrol information. This information should include the time of departure, the time of return, primary and alternate routes, brevity codes, etc. The patrol's communications plan is also listed in detail.

Marginal information. Essential information which should be included on the overlay is the date, map sheet number, map scale and series number, and the patrol leader's name.

(d) Once completed, the overlay is used by the parent unit to follow the patrol's progress and to employ any necessary fire support, as well as to incorporate that particular patrol into an overall patrol plan.

h. **MAKE RECONNAISSANCE.** The patrol leader learns the terrain along the route and in the objective area by visual, map, aerial, and/or aerial photo reconnaissance. Additionally, a patrol leader can gather valuable information about his area of operation by coordinating with other units who have recently operated in and around the area.

i. **COMPLETE THE PLAN.** Once the patrol leader gathers and analyzes the available information for his mission, he then completes his patrolling plan.

j. **ISSUE THE ORDER.** The patrol order is a very detailed plan outlining the entire patrol. **It should be issued with all patrol members present.** The patrol order will be discussed in detail during *B0334, Combat Orders II*.

k. **SUPERVISE** Supervision of patrol preparations is continuous and most effective during rehearsals and inspections.

(1) **Rehearsals.** Each action the patrol may have to execute en route and in the objective area will be rehearsed within friendly lines to ensure the operational readiness of the patrol members. **Rehearsals are one of the most critical and necessary steps in patrol preparation.**

(a) Dry runs. The patrol leader walks and talks the patrol through the actions he expects the patrol to take en route and on the objective as well as those actions he anticipates may occur some time during the patrol (for example, immediate action on contact).

(b) Wet runs. The patrol executes its actions at full speed under the most realistic conditions possible

over similar terrain, as if it were actually executing its mission.

(2) **Inspections.** Inspections are conducted to ensure the physical and mental readiness of the patrol members.

(a) Initial inspection. Initial inspections are conducted by the APL prior to issuance of the patrol order to ensure the correctness of uniform and equipment. *Personnel are inspected to ensure adherence to the warning order and to confirm the physical readiness of the patrol members.* All discrepancies should be noted by a recorder and corrected prior to the final inspection.

(b) Final inspection. Final inspections are conducted by the patrol leader just prior to departing friendly lines. In addition, the commander who has tasked the patrol may wish to inspect the patrol. *The purpose of the final inspection is to ensure the mental readiness of the patrol members.* Patrol members are questioned to ensure each understands the mission, intent, routes, fire support, communications plan and all actions the patrol will execute in accomplishing the mission. The two formations that may be used are the double line or the horse shoe.

1. **EXECUTE.** B0330, *Conduct of Patrol I* discusses patrol execution in detail. Additionally, Appendix A of this handout lists several patrolling tips to assist you in leading and executing patrolling operations.

5. **SUMMARY.** Patrolling is a means for units to ensure security and to gather information on areas not occupied or observed by friendly forces. **Patrolling is an integral part of our warfighting philosophy.** Every Marine should understand the basics of patrolling. During this period of instruction, you were introduced to the basics of patrolling to include: the different types of patrols, the patrolling principles, the twelve patrolling steps, the patrolling tips, the patrol leader's overlay, and the patrol fire support plan. During your future patrolling classes, we will often refer back to these basic principles you learned today.

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UNCLASSIFIED

Figure 1. Patrol Overlay.

APPENDIX A**PATROL TIPS**

INTRODUCTION. Patrolling is an art that can only be mastered by investing time and effort. Experience and proficiency in patrolling techniques may be the difference between success or defeat. Many of the tips herein are lessons learned from Korea, Malaya/Borneo, and Vietnam, while others are derived from field experiences of the instructors and students of The Basic School. The patrolling tips are organized into six categories--**Leadership, Preparation, Tactics, Continuing Actions, Vehicular Patrolling, and Training.** By combining these tips with the information within your patrolling student handouts, you can develop a solid patrolling foundation. Keep in mind that these tips and techniques are the result of lessons learned through experience. Take advantage of the insights they offer.

1. LEADERSHIP

While on a mission, minimize fatigue; tired men become careless.

If you show confidence, your men will have confidence.

If the patrol leader loses his temper, it will affect his judgment. Keep cool and think ahead; always keep an alternate plan in mind. Don't be afraid to take advice from your Marines.

2. PREPARATION**a. GENERAL**

All patrol members should know how to properly administer IVs; know who in the patrol is carrying them, and where they are kept.

Use a pencil to make notes during an operation. Ink smears when it becomes wet, whereas lead does not. Also bring a grease pencil or alcohol marker.

Take paper matches or disposable cigarette lighters to the field in a waterproof container. Do not take zippo-type cigarette lighters as they make too much noise when opening and closing.

All unit leaders should keep STATUS CARDS or a notebook. Information on these cards includes SSN, blood type, weapon serial #, water/chow, and special equipment of all personnel.

Task a demolition team responsibility for destruction of captured weapons (with either thermite grenades or demo charges) and preparation of satchel charges.

Bring a sewing kit and a survival kit in case the patrol is forced to stay out in the AO for an extended period.

Conduct English classes for indigenous personnel, especially interpreters. Conduct classes for U.S. personnel on native dialects.

Electrical tape and 550 cord is invaluable and can be used for innumerable purposes.

All personnel should wear loose fitting clothing on field operations. Tight fitting clothing often tears or rips, allowing easy access to exposed parts of the body for mosquitoes, leeches, chiggers, ticks, poisonous spiders, and poisonous plants.

Always carry a pair of dry socks in a waterproof container.

Luminous tape or "cat eyes", on the back of a field cover aid in night movement. They should be covered with black tape when near the enemy.

All personnel should apply camouflage to any exposed skin before departing friendly lines. If camouflage paint is unavailable, use burnt wood or burnt cork. Mud changes color when it dries and easily comes off--use it only as a last resort.

b. COORDINATION

Each patrol leader should have pre-mission and post-mission checklists to ensure that nothing is left out or forgotten.

Request thermite grenades when coordinating for an ambush patrol. When put on critical parts, they can be used to destroy enemy weapons and vehicles.

c. MAP/NAVIGATION PREPARATION

When making a visual reconnaissance (VR), always mark every LZ within the AO and near it on your map. Plan the route of march so that you will always know how far and on what azimuth the nearest LZ is located.

Do not cut off too much of the map showing your AO. Always designate at least five to ten kilometers surrounding your AO as running room.

Leave graphics off all maps. Use overlays with the grid designators left off the crosshairs. This way if the map and/or overlay are lost, the enemy will not be able to fix the patrol route or position of friendly units.

Always designate an escape azimuth to a catching feature (usually a linear feature such as a stream) and GO/NO-GO criteria for any members that must use it. This should be done during the patrol order.

Always laminate maps or carry them in waterproof containers.

d. WEAPONS

Tape the barrel of your weapon to keep out water and dirt.

Always carry a small vial or tube of lubricating oil for your weapon.

To improve noise discipline, tape all sling swivels or remove them from weapons and tie the sling off.

Place magazines upside down with bullets pointed away from your body in the ammunition pouches. This keeps dirt and water

out of them, and also allows rapid reloading.

Always carry rifle cleaning equipment on an operation.

The last three rounds in each magazine should be tracer to remind the shooter that he needs to reload.

An MRE wrapper folded into thirds lengthwise, and then like an accordion widthwise, and placed in the SAW drum under the rounds will help to silence it.

e. RADIO

Always do comm checks prior to departure of friendly lines.

Know how to pre-set your radio's frequencies.

Take extra batteries whenever possible. Erasers are also invaluable to clean radio contacts.

Construct field expedient antennas ahead of time and have your R.O. proficient in their employment.

Always waterproof your radio and handset before you depart.

When using field-phones, never place the batteries in the set until needed. If the batteries are carried in the device they will lose power even though the switch is in the off position.

If possible, carry an extra handset for the radio and ensure that it is also waterproofed.

The radio operator will carry the patrol's copy of the CEOI. Commit important frequencies, call signs and codes to memory.

f. INSPECTION

Before departing friendly lines, the APL should ensure everyone has a condition one weapon.

Check all patrol members' pockets prior to departing friendly lines for passes, lighters or rings with insignias, and any documents that may give the enemy compromising information. Personnel should only carry dog-tags and an I.D. card while on patrol.

Inspect each patrol member's uniform and equipment, especially radios, strobe lights and NVGs, prior to departing on a mission.

During the rainy season, take extra cough medicine and codeine.

Each key patrol member should carry maps and a notebook in the same pocket of each uniform for hasty removal by other members if one becomes a casualty.

The APL should take notes during initial inspection of all discrepancies; he then concentrates on these during the final inspection.

3. TACTICS

Unit leaders use a full magazine of tracer. If taken under fire during patrol, the tracers can be used to identify enemy positions.

During extraction, do not fire weapons from helicopters after leaving the landing zone (LZ) because a gunship may be passing under you without your knowledge.

While on patrol, move 20 minutes, halt, and listen for 10 minutes. Listen half the amount of time you move. Move and halt at irregular intervals.

Never break limbs or branches on trees, bushes, or palms; this leaves a very clear trail for the enemy to follow and compromises your noise discipline.

Continually check your navigator to ensure he is on azimuth. Do not run a compass course while on patrol--change direction regularly.

If followed by trackers, change direction of movement often and attempt to evade or ambush your trackers--they make good EPWs.

C.S. or pepper spray is effective to break contact with crowds in an urban environment (must use within the R.O.Es).

When the patrol stops for long halts, always check out the area 40 to 60 meters from the perimeter.

Each man in a patrol must continually observe the man in front of him and the man behind him, in addition to watching for other patrol members' hand and arm signals.

If you hear people speaking, move close enough to hear what they are saying. The reason for this is obvious and the PL should take notes.

While on a patrol, do not take the obvious course of action or set a pattern in your activities, such as always turning to the left when button-hooking to ambush your own back trail.

A dead enemy soldier's shirt and the contents in his pockets, plus his pack (if he has one), are normally more valuable than his weapon. Destroy his weapon or take the bolt.

If the enemy is searching for you at night, do not always fire weapons, claymores, or use grenades. Sometimes it's better to use CS grenades instead. By using CS you will cause the enemy to panic and will not give your position away. You can move out in relative safety while they may end up shooting each other.

Pass by your ORP site, fishhook back, and then move into the ORP. By doing this you can observe your own trail.

Before setting into an ambush site, each patrol member should memorize the azimuth and distance to the ORP.

When deploying into the ORP, place the navigator in a position opposite the most likely enemy avenue of approach to lead the patrol out in case of emergency.

Do not send radio transmissions from your ambush site unless absolutely necessary. Be prepared to move if you do send radio transmissions.

A buddy system should be always be established prior to departure to friendly lines. Each man will take care of the other man and his equipment if one is wounded, injured, or killed.

Keep all your gear secured so that the patrol can move out rapidly at any time.

Patrol members should not bunch up next to each other--one grenade or burst from an automatic weapon could get them all.

Patrol members should be able to communicate with each other either by hand and arm signals or by one-on-one low voice.

If the PL needs to confer with unit leaders, he should get in the prone or take a knee (behind cover) and should talk with one at a time.

When stopping for short security halts, patrol members should face outboard and move to a covered and/or concealed position. Never sit down when on patrol! This leads to carelessness, always take a knee or get in the prone.

If the ambush has no contact, a check of the flanks and the rear, at a distance of 40 to 60 meters, should be made prior to moving out or prior to retrieving the claymores.

Be alert when leaving the ambush site. If you have been seen or had contact, you will probably be attacked or ambushed within 300 meters.

Avoid establishing habits and patterns. If the enemy has been observing you, he will take note of this and will plan an ambush against you.

4. CONTINUING ACTIONS

a. MEN

Stay alert at all times. You are never 100 percent safe until you are back within friendly lines.

Force yourself to cough whenever a high-performance aircraft passes over. The cough will clear your throat, ease tension, and cannot be heard. When there is no noise and you must cough, cough into your cover or handkerchief to cover the noise.

If you change socks, try to wait until you reach the ORP. Have no more than two patrol members change socks at once, and never take off both boots at the same time.

When a patrol member starts to come down with immersion foot, stop in a secure position, remove the injured person's boots, dry his feet, put foot powder on them and place a ground sheet or poncho over his feet so they can dry out. Continued walking will make matters worse and cause the man to become a casualty, halting further progress of the patrol.

Never use a water-based skin moisturizer in cold weather--if temperatures drop below freezing, they will damage the skin.

Don't put ear flaps or hoods over ears.

Gloves protect hands from thorns (cellulitis sets in rapidly when in the field for extended periods) and aid in holding a weapon when it heats up.

b. WEAPONS

Replace the cartridge in the chamber of your weapon each morning quietly. Condensation may cause a malfunction.

Position your weapon at the carry, alert or ready (enemy situation and position in patrol formation will dictate) with the selector switch on safe.

Check all magazines before going on an operation to ensure they are clean and properly filled.

Never assume that your weapon is clean and lubricated enough on an operation. CLEAN & LUBRICATE YOUR WEAPON DAILY.

c. RADIO

If batteries go dead or weak do not throw them away while on patrol. Small batteries can be recharged by placing them in armpits or between the legs. A larger battery can gain added life by sleeping with the battery next to the body. Additional life can also be gained by placing batteries in the sun.

Keep radio transmissions brief and to a minimum.

d. SECURITY

A large percentage of patrols have been compromised due to poor noise and light discipline.

All personnel should re-camouflage all exposed skin whenever a long security halt is called or when at the ORP. Unit leaders must ensure security is kept while this is being done.

Do not cook or build heating fires on patrol. Do not eat while moving on patrol; all eating is done at a patrol base, or designated long security halts.

During the dry season, do not urinate on rocks or leaves, but rather in a hole or crevice (if at all). The wet may be seen and the odor will carry long distances.

During halts do not take your pack off or leave your weapon alone.

All trash should be packed out.

A thorough check should be made of the ORP/ambush site to ensure that nothing is left behind and that the entire site is sterile.

Never eat chow or smoke in the ambush position. The odor of the food or tobacco gives the position away.

Put brush on the pack to break up the outline of patrol members. This way, if the patrol's packs must be cached, they are already camouflaged.

Assign a recorder, usually the RO, to note all significant events. This makes the debrief easier and gives the S-2 accurate information.

The best times for patrolling are windy, rainy nights.

5. VEHICULAR PATROL TIPS

Ensure the vehicle is fueled up and is mechanically sound before departing.

Vehicle nets are always brought and should be checked to make sure they are properly secured.

A mix of heavy machine gun and TOW HMMWVs provide excellent reconnaissance and stand-off capability (thermal sight

and long range weapons).

Always bring tow cables to recover vehicles and jumper cables for starting vehicles.

Always have extra fuel cans, first aid equipment, water and rations stored inside your vehicle.

Immediate action drills are similar in concept to dismounted patrols. When engaged, part of the unit suppresses while another maneuvers on the enemy. When stopped, all vehicles "herring bone" to opposite sides of the road, similar to facing outboard and taking a knee.

The crew in a hardback HMMWV should consist of no less than four people. They are the driver, the vehicle commander/navigator, gunner, and A-Gunner.

In urban areas, vehicles can be vulnerable to thrown rocks and debris. While this may not seem serious, a broken windshield will effectively blind a driver. Wire-mesh or chicken wire can be strung up along a frame angled from the top of the windshield, down toward the hood. Wire can be strung up along the side windows as well, which will prevent grenades and rocks from entering, but still allow fresh air into the vehicle.

In urban areas, avoid potholes as mines are placed in these. In the desert, watch your dust signature.

Be careful when driving over barricades or through rubble in a HMMWV. The bottom of the gas tank contains a rubber plug that can get scraped out, resulting in the rapid loss of fuel.

Develop an alternate communications plan. Plan for use of signal flags and hand and arm signals.

For HMGs .50 cal, use an empty MK-19 can as an ammo drum--link several hundred rounds of .50 cal together and store them in the can.

Ensure all gear is strapped down in the back vehicles--gear adrift will be stolen in urban environments or will fall off when maneuvering quickly.

Gunners and A-gunners wear goggles, helmet, and flak when riding in the turret.

Mark vehicles so they can be identified by friendly air (e.g., an air panel).

All vehicles should have maps and routes. Utilize checkpoints and phase lines as control measures.

Plan for separation or link-up failure.

Sandbag the floor of vehicles as this protects against mines.

Put AT-4s in vehicles or team up Dragons and HMGs.

Learn the deviation between your compass's true bearing and the bearing it gives when used in a vehicle.

6. TRAINING

a. GENERAL

Patrolling operations require that all members of the patrol, not just unit leaders, be trained and proficient in several different areas. Hence, it is often stated that a unit which is proficient in patrolling operations, can be successful at almost any infantry related mission. The training necessary to prepare the individual Marine for patrolling should focus on developing the following skills:

b. WEAPONS AND MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING. Marines you send on patrol must-

Be an expert in handling their own weapons and other weapons organic to the unit. In addition, they must be familiar with enemy weapons that he may encounter.

Be able to pick up fleeting targets; and to fire the rifle from any firing position.

Know fire discipline. Unnecessary firing discloses friendly locations to the enemy.

Be proficient in the use and BZO'ing of night vision scopes and sights.

c. OBSERVATION SKILLS. Marines on patrol should-

Be trained to recognize camouflaged personnel, equipment, and defensive positions.

Be trained in the use of binoculars and night vision devices.

Learn to observe quickly and accurately and to remember what is seen.

Be able to accurately estimate enemy unit composition and strength.

Know the units, uniforms, equipment, and weapons of the enemy.

Use all senses available-sight, smell, and hearing. Be particularly alert for movement, objects, sounds, and smells that are not appropriate to their surroundings.

Be thorough and patient; they must keep their minds on the mission.

Keep back from doors and windows, if observing from a building.

Avoid all unnecessary movement, while observing.

Scan their entire field of vision by breaking their field of vision down into bands of parallel strips 50 meters or less in width, beginning with the area closest to them.

Know how to utilize an observation post.

(1) Move to the chosen observation spot by a concealed route.

(2) If an observation post is on a hill, crawl to a place where the skyline is broken

(3) When leaving an observation post, use a different route from that of the approach, if possible.

(4) When an observation post is to be occupied for several days, avoid making a position or a trail that can be spotted from the air.

d. REPORTING

Patrols must ensure they have adequate means to report information. If radios are not available then they must know how to develop a signal plan utilizing pyrotechnics.

A patrol leader sending a radio message should make it brief, accurate, and timely. He should have the radio operator repeat the message back to him before it is sent. Patrol leaders must be careful to ensure they report facts, not opinions.

If the patrol is provided with a radio, a definite radio schedule for *checking in* must be arranged before departure of the patrol.

The patrol leader takes every precaution to ensure that codes and copies of messages are not captured by the enemy. If a close reconnaissance of enemy lines is required, the radio should be left in a concealed location which is a safe distance from the enemy. Once a report is sent by radio, the patrol should leave the area immediately to avoid the possibility of detection by enemy locating devices.

NATO formats should be utilized to maximize brevity and clarity of reports.

Every patrol should make a practice of searching enemy casualties, prisoners, and installations for equipment, papers, maps, messages, orders, diaries, and codes after first checking for booby traps. Search techniques should be practiced often in order to reduce the time exposed to potentially dangerous situations. Items found are collected by the patrol leader and turned in with the patrol report. The items found are marked as to time and place of capture. Where possible, captured items should be linked to a specific prisoner from whom it was taken or found near. When this is done, the EPW tag and item tag are marked accordingly. The patrol leader must impress upon the members of his patrol the importance of turning in all documents and equipment. Furthermore, he must ensure all information gathered by the patrol is disseminated quickly.

Patrol members should be able to sketch information that is difficult to describe. The sketch may give all the necessary information, or it may be used to supplement a written message. For more information on military sketching see MCWP 3.11.6.

Be familiar with all communications assets and the use of field expedient antennae.

If a radio has been provided, locate the antenna to provide clear communication to the controlling commander but masked from enemy observation and direction-finding equipment.

e. **FIELD SKILLS.** Marines should-

Be able to recognize and respond quickly to improvised signals given either visually or by sound.

Practice swimming with his weapon and equipment.

Be experts in the art of camouflage.

Know how to silence their person, equipment, and weapon.

Know how to survive in the field for extended periods of time.

Know how to acclimate oneself to the extremes of temperature under which operations will occur.

Be an expert in land navigation

(1) Recognize terrain features.

(2) Read a map.

(3) Determine direction.

(4) Develop a sense of direction and learn how to follow a course by compass, stars, sun, flow of streams, prominent terrain features, and by observing other natural phenomenon.

(5) Learn to determine the distance traveled from a known point and to keep a record of azimuths and the distance traveled on each azimuth (dead reckoning).

Maximize stealth, and patience. Battlefield noises can often be used to cover the sounds of movement made by a unit in close proximity to the enemy.

Avoid becoming a silhouette. Routes of advance should be below the skyline.

Always return by a different route from their advance in order to avoid enemy ambushes. Never use the same route on successive nights.

Be proficient in the use of supporting arms.

7. **FURTHER READING.** There are many outstanding books and publications on patrol techniques and experiences. Students who are interested in patrolling and counterinsurgency techniques may enjoy the following readings:

ALLEN, Charles. **Savage Wars of Peace**. This book details over 40 years of counterinsurgency operations and includes an analysis of British urban patrolling experiences in Northern Ireland.

GARLAND, Albert N. **Infantry in Viet Nam**. This book provides details on several different patrolling techniques which were successful in Viet Nam.

MCKAY, Gary. **In Good Company**. This book follows the experiences of an Australian Army Platoon in Vietnam. Excellent techniques discussed in detail.

NORTON, Bruce H. **Force Recon Diary 1969/1970**. These two books are well written accounts from the perspective of a Corpsman assigned to a Force Reconnaissance Company in Vietnam.

MCWP 3.11.6 (formerly the FMFM 6-7), **Scouting and Patrolling for Infantry Units**. This publication is doctrine for the

Marine Corps. It contains many basic but useful techniques that expand on what you learned while at TBS.

FM 7-8, **Infantry Squad and Platoon**. This publication is doctrine for the Army. It contains many basic but useful techniques that expand on what you learned while at TBS.

U.S. Army Ranger Handbook. This is basically a Plt Cmdr's Notebook for the Army's light infantry leaders. An incredible amount of information is packed into this small book. It is light and fits easily into a butt-pack or cargo pocket. Different techniques and tactics make this interesting publication worth reading.

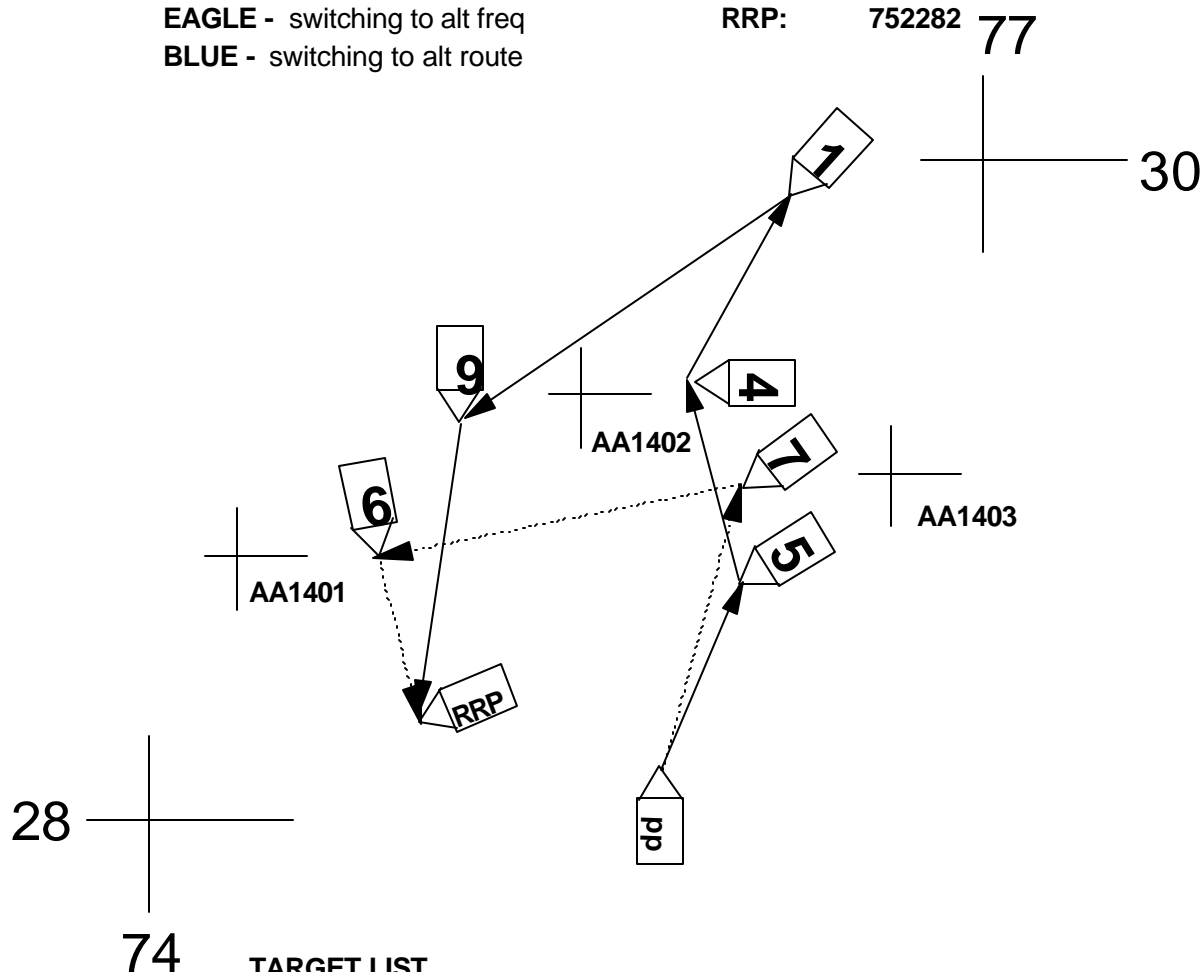
PATROL COORDINATION

FIRE SUPPORT OVERLAY

Patrol Leader: Sgt Scrivens
Unit: 1st Sqd, 2d Plat A 1/1
Date of Patrol: 7 May 1995
Map Sheet: Quantico 1:50,000
TOD: 1845
TOR: NLT 0203
Patrol Frequencies
 Primary: 33.60
 Alternate: 45.70
Call Sign: R8J
Brevity codes
 EAGLE - switching to alt freq
 BLUE - switching to alt route

Primary Route →
PP: TT 754283
CP5: 757287
CP4: 758291
CP1: 760296
CP9: 753293
RRP: 752282

Alternate Route →
PP: TT 754283
CP7: 756292
CP6: 751287
RRP: 752282



TARGET LIST

TGT #	LOCATION	TGT DES	REMARKS
AA1401	TT756290	Road Junct	HE/WP
AA1402	TT760297	Hilltop	VT
AA1403	TT768297	Ridgeline	VT